



15 October 1976

The department's 45-minute music programme on CKUA on Saturday October 23 ("University Concert Hall", 6:45 PM to 7:30) will be about the Swedish composer Allan Pettersson, who turned 65 in September.

To be heard on the programme are: one of Pettersson's 24 Barefoot Songs (1943-45), one of his 7 sonatas for 2 violins (1951), and his symphony no. 10 (1972).

Pettersson was for many years a violist in the Stockholm Philharmonic. In the 1950's and 60's he wrote a remarkable group of works for full orchestra and for string orchestra which tended to be heard once in Sweden and then forgotten. In 1968, things began to improve for him in this regard, but in 1970 the very severe chronic illnesses he had been fighting for a long time put him in a hospital for 9 months. The 10th symphony is the first composition which he completed after that. It is a work of great dramatic intensity unlike anything even Pettersson had written previously.

His orchestral music has only rarely been played by a non-Swedish orchestra, but he is very well known now inside Sweden. In May of this year, the first Stockholm performances took place of his 9th symphony - and there were what seemed to me considerable crowds for these concerts given over to one work in a single movement lasting 82 minutes.

Paul Rapoport

